

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An operating/managing system connected to a computer and at least two storage apparatuses, comprising:

computer connecting means for establishing a connection with said computer;

at least two storage apparatus connecting means for establishing connections with said storage apparatuses respectively;

property holding means for holding a property of said storage apparatus connected to said computer;

storage apparatus information holding means for holding information on a storage apparatus selected on the basis of said information stored in said property holding means;

connection destination switching means for distributing information into said storage apparatus connecting means in a state where a destination address of said information has been switched in accordance with said information held in said storage apparatus information holding means, said information being received from said computer;

information duplicating means for controlling reading-out of information from said storage apparatus and writing-in of said information into said storage apparatus on the basis of said information held in said storage apparatus information holding means; and

volume requesting means for requesting

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allocation of a volume to said storage apparatus connected to said computer.

2. The operating/managing system of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said storage apparatus connected to said computer includes volume allocating means for allocating said volume in accordance with said volume allocating request from said volume requesting means,

said volume requesting means requesting, in accordance with said information held in said storage apparatus information holding means, allocation of a volume to volume allocating means in another storage apparatus,

said information duplicating means duplicating, in accordance with said information held in said storage apparatus information holding means, said information from a volume in said storage apparatus to a volume in said another storage apparatus connected to said another storage apparatus connecting means.

3. The operating/managing system of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said storage apparatus connected to said storage apparatus connecting means comprises property inputting means for inputting said property information into said property holding means.

4. The operating/managing system of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

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request property selecting means for selecting a property of a storage apparatus required by said computer;

property comparing means for making a comparison between said information held in said storage apparatus property holding means and said information selected by said request property selecting means; and

comparison result indicating means for indicating a result of said comparison.

5. The operating/managing system of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said information duplicating means comprises:

information amount counting means for counting an amount of said information duplicated from said storage apparatus to said another storage apparatus; and

information amount indicating means for indicating a result of said counting.

6. The operating/managing system of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said information amount indicating means indicates said information amount inputted by price inputting means such that, in correspondence with said information amount counted by said information amount counting means, said information amount has been converted into price information by price converting means.

7. An operating/managing method in an operating/

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managing system of storage apparatuses, comprising the steps of:

causing a storage apparatus to be specified, said storage apparatus being in use at present;

causing a property to be specified, said storage apparatus being requested to exhibit said property;

causing a particular storage apparatus to be selected from among candidates of storage apparatuses indicated from said operating/managing system;

requesting said selected storage apparatus to create a volume; and

instructing said selected storage apparatus to start duplication of data.

8. The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, subsequently to said step of causing said particular storage apparatus to be selected, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

indicating a fee needed for said duplication of said data.

9. The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, subsequently to said step of requesting said creation of said volume, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

charging a fee to a storage apparatus operating system that owns said selected storage apparatus.

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